

CLAIMS:

1           1.       A method to transform bids in an electronic auction, comprising:  
2           receiving a first bid having a first value and a first unit of measurement, and  
3           second bid having a second value and a second unit of measurement; and  
4           transforming said first and second values to third and fourth values, respectively,  
5           having a standard unit of measurement.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein said first value is a monthly lease  
2           payment and said second value is a purchase price.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein transforming said first and second values  
2           comprises:  
3           determining a first transformation factor for said first value;  
4           determining a second transformation factor for said second value; and  
5           transforming said first value using said first transformation factor and said second  
6           value using said second transformation factor.

1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein transforming said first value and said second  
2           value comprises performing a linear transformation for each value having at least one of a  
3           multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

1           5.       The method of claim 3, wherein transforming said first value and said  
2       second value comprises multiplying said first value by said first transformation factor and  
3       said second value by said second transformation factor.

1           6.       The method of claim 3, wherein determining said first and second  
2       transformation factors comprises:  
3               searching a look-up table for said first and second transformation factors; and  
4               retrieving said first and second transformation factors in accordance with said  
5       search.

1           7.       The method of claim 3, wherein determining said first transformation  
2       factor comprises:  
3               identifying a first set of transformation variables for said first value;  
4               determining a first transformation function to derive said standard unit of  
5       measurement using said first value and said first set of transformation variables;  
6               receiving a value for each of said first set of transformation variables; and  
7               determining said first transformation factor using said received values and said  
8       first transformation function.

1           8.       The method of claim 7, wherein said first set of transformation variables  
2       comprise at least one of a group comprising a tax rate, a depreciation model, a book value  
3       life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, risk factors based on different leasing plans,  
4       inception costs and exit costs.

1           9.       The method of claim 3, wherein determining said second transformation  
2 factor comprises:  
3           identifying a second set of transformation variables for said second value;  
4           determining a second transformation function to derive said standard unit of  
5 measurement using said second value and said second set of transformation variables;  
6           receiving a value for each of said second set of transformation variables; and  
7           determining said second transformation factor using said received values and said  
8 second transformation function.

1           10.      The method of claim 9, wherein said second set of transformation  
2 variables comprise at least one of a group comprising a tax rate, a depreciation model, a  
3 book value life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, inception costs and exit costs.

1           11.      The method of claim 1, wherein said standard unit of measurement is a  
2 buyer comparative bid parameter.

1           12.      The method of claim 11, wherein said buyer comparative bid parameter  
2 represents a net present value.

1           13.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           comparing said third value and said fourth value; and  
3           ranking said third value with respect to said fourth value in accordance with said  
4           comparison.

1           14.     The method of claim 13, further comprising displaying said rankings for a  
2           buyer.

1           15.     The method of claim 1, wherein said first bid is from a first bidder and  
2           said second bid is from a second bidder, and further comprising:  
3           detransforming said third value to a fifth value having said second unit of  
4           measurement, and said fourth value to a sixth value having said first unit of  
5           measurement; and  
6           sending said fifth value to said second bidder and said sixth value to said first  
7           bidder.

1           16.     A machine-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to  
2           transform bids in an electronic auction, comprising:  
3           receiving a first bid having a first value and a first unit of measurement, and a  
4           second bid having a second value and a second unit of measurement; and  
5           transforming said first and second values to third and fourth values, respectively,  
6           having a standard unit of measurement.

1           17.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said first value is a  
2     monthly lease payment and said second value is a purchase price.

1           18.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein transforming said  
2     first and second values comprises:  
3           determining a first transformation factor for said first value;  
4           determining a second transformation factor for said second value; and  
5           transforming said first value using said first transformation factor and said second  
6     value using said second transformation factor.

1           19.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein transforming said  
2     first value and said second value comprises performing a linear transformation for each  
3     value having at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

1           20.     The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein transforming said  
2     first value and said second value comprises multiplying said first value by said first  
3     transformation factor and said second value by said second transformation factor.

1           21.     The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining said first  
2     and second transformation factors comprises:  
3           searching a look-up table for said first and second transformation factors; and  
4           retrieving said first and second transformation factors in accordance with said  
5     search.

1           22.     The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining said first  
2 transformation factor comprises:

3           identifying a first set of transformation variables for said first value;  
4           determining a first transformation function to derive said standard unit of  
5 measurement using said first value and said first set of transformation variables;  
6           receiving a value for each of said first set of transformation variables; and  
7           determining said first transformation factor using said received values and said  
8 first transformation function.

1           23.     The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said first set of  
2 transformation variables comprise at least one of a group comprising a tax rate, a  
3 depreciation model, a book value life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, risk factors based  
4 on different leasing plans, inception costs and exit costs.

1           24.     The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining said  
2 second transformation factor comprises:  
3           identifying a second set of transformation variables for said second value;  
4           determining a second transformation function to derive said standard unit of  
5 measurement using said second value and said second set of transformation variables;  
6           receiving a value for each of said second set of transformation variables; and  
7           determining said second transformation factor using said received values and said  
8 second transformation function.

1           25.     The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said second set of  
2     transformation variables comprise at least one of a group comprising a tax rate, a  
3     depreciation model, a book value life, a cost of debt, a cost of capital, inception costs and  
4     exit costs.

1           26.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said standard unit of  
2     measurement is a buyer comparative bid parameter.

1           27.     The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein said buyer  
2     comparative bid parameter represents a net present value.

1           28.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:  
2             comparing said third value and said fourth value; and  
3             ranking said third value with respect to said fourth value in accordance with said  
4     comparison.

1           29.     The machine-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising displaying  
2     said rankings for a buyer.

1           30.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said first bid is from  
2     a first bidder and said second bid is from a second bidder, and further comprising:

3            detransforming said third value to a fifth value having said second unit of  
4    measurement, and said fourth value to a sixth value having said first unit of  
5    measurement; and  
6            sending said fifth value to said second bidder and said sixth value to said first  
7    bidder.